Las Vegas
Urban Design Awards Program

In order to encourage the private sector to develop innovative projects using the best of urban design principles, the Mayor's Urban Design Awards Program was developed. This yearly recognition program will honor those projects that incorporate urban design principles that foster pedestrian-friendly developments and mixed-use projects within the City limits. The program is organized as follows:

1.   **Form a Volunteer Committee**   (By September, 2006)

   a.   The Mayor will select two committee members;
   b.   Each Council member will select one committee member; and
   c.   Planning & Development will select one committee member.
   d.   This will make up a 9-member committee.

2.   **Funding** (September – November, 2006)

   a.   Planning & Development Department would provide staff and general office support for the committee.
   b.   Committee members would seek sponsors for the Awards.

3.   **Awards Selection Process** (November – December, 2006)

   a.   Anyone can nominate a project or person;
   b.   The appointed committee will review and rank the projects based on criteria they develop.*
   c.   The committee will forward their recommendations to the Mayor.
   d.   The Mayor will select the award winners in all categories.

4.   **The Award**

   a.   The committee will design the award (plaque, trophy, etc…)
   b.   Sponsors of each award to provide a financial award as well?

5.   **The Award Ceremony** (January, 2007)

   a.   Funded solely by sponsors.

b. Depending on funding will include reception with food
c. The Mayor will host.
d. The ceremony will be held at a City facility or a donated private location.
e. This would be an annual award.
f. Timing: The Awards Ceremony will take place right after the Mayor's state of the City Address.

- Planning & Development Staff would develop basic criteria for the committee.

Mayor's Urban Design Awards
General Criteria for Judging

The guidelines for judging projects will be the Congress of New Urbanism's Charter principles as follows:

1. That urban architecture and landscape design is the physical definition of streets and public spaces as places of shared use.

2. Individual architectural projects should be seamlessly linked to their surroundings. This issue transcends style.

3. The revitalization of urban places depends on safety and security. The design of streets and buildings should reinforce safe environments, but not at the expense of accessibility and openness.

4. In the contemporary metropolis, development must adequately accommodate automobiles. It should do so in ways that respect the pedestrian and the form of public space.

5. Streets and squares should be safe, comfortable, and interesting to the pedestrian. Properly configured, they encourage walking and enable neighbors to know each other and protect their communities.

6. Architecture and landscape design should grow from local climate, topography, history and building practice.

7. Civic buildings and public gathering places require important sites to reinforce community identity and the culture of democracy. They deserve distinctive form, because their role is different from that of other buildings and places that constitute the fabric of the city.

8. All buildings should provide their inhabitants with a clear sense of location, weather and time. Natural methods of heating and cooling can be more resource-efficient than mechanical systems.

9. Preservation and renewal of historic buildings, districts, and landscapes affirm the continuity and evolution of urban society.